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Message Text

SECRET

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66 60
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 EUR-10

DODE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SPC-01 DRC-01 /075 W
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O 142340Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8138

S E C R E T LIMA 9143

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR FLANIGAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PE, CI, UR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF DESTROYERS TO CHILE

REF: LIMA 8889, 8892, AND 8893

1. WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT U.S. HAS EITHER AGREED TO SELL OR IS ABOUT TO AGREE TO SELL TWO DESTROYERS TO CHILE. AS WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE, THE PERUVIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BUY DESTROYERS FROM THE U.S. FOR SOME YEARS BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING THE PELLY AMENDMENT AS WELL AS NON-AVAILABILITY OF SUCH SHIPS, PURCHASES BY PERU HAVE BEEN DENIED. AT THIS MOMENT WHEN WE ARE IN WHAT WE TRUST ARE THE FINAL STAGES OF THE GREENE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS BEING IN THE MIDST OF CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PURCHASE BY PERU OF SOVIET TANKS AND ARTILLERY, THE SALE OF WAR SHIPS TO CHILE TAKES ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE.

2. WHETHER OR NOT THE SALE OF THESE SHIPS TO CHILE IS A FAIT ACCOMPLI OR IS STILL PENDING SOME FINAL DECISION, I BELIEVE WE
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SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE EFFECTS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY

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SUCH SALE COULD HAVE ON THE FINAL STAGES OF MR. GREENE'S NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS IT MIGHT HAVE ON ANY ACTION WE MAY DECIDE TO TAKE WITH REGARD TO SOVIET ARMS SALE TO PERU.

3. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE PERUVIAN REACTION TO THE SALE OF SHIPS TO CHILE WILL BE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE GIVEN THE PRESENT SITUATION. HOWEVER, IF THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, WE MAY BE ABLE TO SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM THE EVENT IF WE ARE CAREFUL WITH REGARD TO COORDINATING THE TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH OUR OTHER ACTIONS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN OUR THREE TELEGRAMS (LIMA 8889, 8892, AND 8893) CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF SOVIET ARMS. AS REGARDS THE GREENE MISSION IT WOULD CERTAINLY SEEM TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO HOLD UP ANY FINAL DECISION OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS MAJOR SALE TO CHILE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT BASED ON MR. GREENE'S NEGOTIATIONS.

4. I TRUST THAT THE INFORMATION ON WHICH I HAVE BASED THE FOREGOING COMMENT IS ERRONEOUS. HOWEVER, DURING THE FOUR AND A HALF YEARS I HAVE BEEN IN LIMA IT HAS NOT BEEN THE USUAL PRACTICE TO KEEP THIS EMBASSY INFORMED IN ADVANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF ARMS TO CHILE. THEREFORE THE DEPARTMENT WILL FORGIVE MY PREOCCUPATION IN THIS INSTANCE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT CAN BE PROVIDED AS WELL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH EMBASSY SANTIAGO AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE THAT THIS REPORTED SALE WILL DO TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN PERU.
BELCHER

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